

# NORTHWEST MISSOURIAN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

VOL. 109, NO. 15

@THEMISSOURIAN

## IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

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Northwest Wellness Center  
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RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

## Provost makes plans for spring

ABIGAIL STARR  
News Reporter | [@abbeystarr5](#)

With COVID-19 cases on the rise across the country, the provost is preparing for another semester of mask mandates, distancing and reliance on student cooperation.

Academic Provost Jamie Hooyman was a key player in allowing on-campus learning for the fall 2020 semester. Since the campus closure in March, the University's goals have remained the same: prioritize the health and safety of the Northwest community and ensure the quality of the learning environment from the day of closure.

Campus was then analyzed by teams of Northwest staff to measure, clean and prepare spaces for students again. Faculty measured classrooms to ensure rooms that allowed for 6 feet of distancing were utilized. Air flow into buildings determined walking paths to enter and exit buildings. Bearcat Thunder was added to every room. Signs reminding students to wear masks were placed every few feet. Hooyman even purchased additional equipment for art classes, labs and other departments to make sure fewer hands touched the same tools.

Bearcats should expect more of the same for the spring semester. Masks will be required, distancing is encouraged, alternate attendance is preferred, and students will be asked to go into quarantine if they test positive or interact with someone who has tested positive.

SEE SPRING 2021 | A4

## 'We're doing our best'

### Inside Northwest's response to a budding health crisis

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | [@andrewwegley](#)

**Editor's note:** The Missourian recognizes this article may be triggering for some readers. This story was published in an effort to share information about and advance a dialogue surrounding mental health struggles on Northwest's campus. Anyone facing these struggles can call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255. Students can also reach the Northwest Wellness Center at 660-562-1348. All students have access to free counseling and clinic care on campus.

The email went out at 4:55 p.m. on a Thursday afternoon, sent to a select group of Northwest faculty, coaches and staff Nov. 12, alerting them of a budding crisis gripping the University in what the subject line captured in three unassuming words: "Mental Health Awareness."

Dispatched from Vice President of Human Resources Krista Barcus only to employees designated as "leaders of people," the email, obtained by The Missourian, was concise. In the span of three sentences that stretched across two paragraphs, Barcus alerted the designated em-

ployees of "a concerning increase in suicide attempts by students on our campus."

Along with an attached document providing mental health-related tips and resources to employees, the email served as one of the earliest, most direct steps the University has taken in responding to an acute mental health crisis — one prompted by six acute suicide attempts over a 10-day span on Northwest's campus and within the student population from Oct. 30 to Nov. 6.

"In four decades of policing here at Northwest, we've never had that level of severity, acuteness in such a compressed time frame," said Clarence Green, the University police chief and vice president of culture. "And so, we really don't have a reference point for why that would have happened."

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](#)

## COVID-19 takes toll on local businesses in Maryville, county

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor | [@calfee\\_kc](#)

Josh McKim doesn't like to talk about the struggling small business. He especially doesn't like to talk about it when the struggling small business resides in the county he serves.

Even so, his role as executive director of Nodaway County Economic Development forces him to acknowledge when local businesses are gasping for air. Right now, he said, they are.

January through March was looking up for the local businesses, because for many in the county, sales were in a positive standing. But April took a toll on this progress, when retail was deemed nonessential, and several businesses had nearly no sales for a month.

"In May you saw this spike back up in sales, and then as we got into the summer it came back down," McKim said. "It's never really come back up to where we'd like to see it."

At this same time, during April and May, unemployment levels skyrocketed. Now, the NCED reports these levels are almost back to what they were before COVID-19 began affecting the local economy, but with a catch — people are dropping out of the labor force.

"Which is never good. It means they've given up looking for jobs,"

McKim said.

Large employers in the county are hiring though, McKim said, and the need of workers from businesses remains high, which is a good sign for those seeking employment.

Even during business closures, sales tax revenue has been steadily above last year's county receipts for each month in 2020, up until November.

Overall for the year, tax revenue is up 8-12%, McKim said. However, this rise does not translate into small businesses. Small business revenues have been off regular margins anywhere from 20-70% for the year.

The Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce and the NCED discovered this issue when working through small business grant program applications for Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act funds for the county. This funding has helped to provide some relief and security for businesses in the area, but concerns still remain.

Even with this relief, local retailers are telling the GMCC and NCED that foot traffic is down anywhere from 40-60%, meaning the bulk of small business purchases are down across the board.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](#)



A patient walks into their appointment Nov. 24, at the Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville. This fall, the health care institution celebrated its 125th anniversary serving the Maryville community.

## Mosaic workers remain resilient amid pandemic

MADELINE MAPES  
News Reporter | [@MadelineDMapes](#)

SIDNEY LOWRY  
Missouri Reporter | [@sidney\\_lowry](#)

On the surface, a decrease in coronavirus cases could be seen as a relief for many, especially Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville, but its president, Nate Blackford, said he expects worse challenges to come

with the upcoming flu and cold season. He said his staff is strong, but growing weary at the possibility of a surge of new cases in the coming months.

Blackford described the last nine months for doctors and nurses at Mosaic as a marathon. Despite the long jog, he said the staff at Mosaic are still resilient. The hospital had to increase the space that is dedicat-

ed to COVID-19 patients and utilize temporary, movable wall structures to change the size and shapes of their isolation areas when needed. Another growing concern is the availability of beds in the ICU as cases increase across the state.

"I think our challenges ahead are probably more significant than some of the challenges that are behind us," Blackford said.

As of Nov. 23, there were 98 COVID-19 positive patients throughout the entire Mosaic Life Care system, including Maryville, St. Joseph, Missouri and Albany, Missouri.

Blackford said seven of the 98 COVID-19 positive patients were placed in the ICU.

As of Dec. 1, ICU capacity is down to 20% based on the state's COVID-19 dashboard.

SEE MOSAIC | A4

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# Cases subside as vaccine promise grows

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor I @andrewwegley

New announcements from pharmaceutical companies and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over the last few weeks have brought a new wave of hope in the fight against COVID-19 in Nodaway County, where Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson's optimism has ebbed and flowed with the daily caseload as the pandemic drags on.

In the last 45 days, drug manufacturers have made strides in the development of several COVID-19 vaccines, while Nodaway County has recorded more virus cases than it did in the first six months on the pandemic. From April 2 — when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the county — to Oct. 15, Nodaway County recorded 988 cases of the virus. In the month-and-a-half since, the county reported 1,049 new cases, 759 of which came in November.

On the heels of the county's worst month in its fight against the virus, one that came with three additional deaths among county residents, companies like Moderna and Pfizer have announced Phase 3 testing results of vaccines that

each have efficacy rates of more than 90%. Moderna applied to receive emergency use operation from the Food and Drug Administration, while Pfizer's vaccines was granted emergency operation in the United Kingdom.

And Dec. 2, a day after Nodaway County reported 24 new virus cases and the county's seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases rose slightly to 18.29, the CDC leaked plans to shorten the mandatory close contact quarantine length to 10 days, rather than 14. Under the new guidelines, close contacts would only have to quarantine for seven days if they test negative for COVID-19.

The new guidelines, presented Dec. 2 at a White House coronavirus task force meeting but not yet officially announced by the CDC, are set to have the most immediate impact on the residents of Nodaway County, where there are 238 active cases of COVID-19, 24 of which involve Northwest staff or students.

"We have to endure and be diligent and practice all the way through," Patterson said in a phone interview. "It's not time to let up. We're gonna have to go through early stages of the vac-

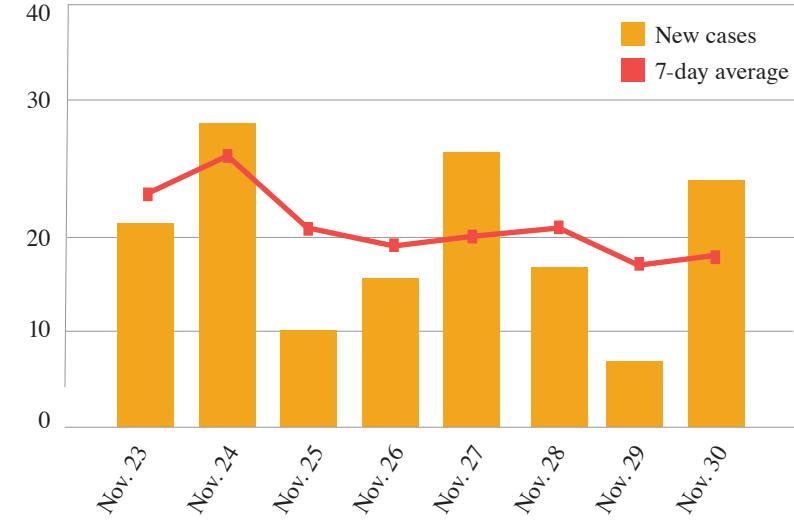
cinations and vaccines, whatever's available as it comes, so we can get those things started. And when vaccines are available locally, we're not going to be able to — it doesn't mean we're going to be able to let up."

The renewed promise of a vaccine and new guidelines come one week after Maryville's City Council released a seventh emergency order regarding COVID-19, one that limits social gatherings in the city to 10 people and places temporary occupancy restrictions on some businesses. The order also calls for enhanced enforcement of Maryville's mask mandate, which now applies to every person over the age of 5.

The criteria of the seventh emergency order applies to the city as long as Nodaway County is considered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to be "Category 1: Extreme Risk." The designation is given to counties with COVID-19 positivity rates higher than 15%. As of Dec. 2, the county's positivity rate was 20.9% — the latest available data at the time of publication.

"The seventh emergency order will closely align with the state's guidance... have limited impacts

## NEW DAILY COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTY



on businesses but certainly hopefully have more impacts on the decrease of spread of COVID-19," City Manager Greg McDaniel told The Missourian.

Still, the county is largely better off than it was two weeks ago in its fight against the coronavirus, as the prospect of a vaccine and new quarantine guidelines are set to slightly ease the burden caused by the virus. In the middle part of Novem-

ber, Nodaway County saw all-time highs in single-day case counts, the seven day rolling average and the county's active case total. After the county reported a single-day record of 49 cases Nov. 11, the seven day average peaked at 33.29 Nov. 14, as the active case count reached 365, a county record.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## Anti-government Facebook group targets City Council

KENDRICK CALFEE  
News Editor I @calfee\_kc

A week after its inception, a local Facebook group called the "Maryville and Nodaway County Resident Council" garnered a following of close to 800 people spread across the greater Maryville area.

The group was created to begin a forum for civil discussion among members regarding issues affecting residents of Maryville and the surrounding area. Those in the group often discuss improving water quality, adverse effects of COVID-19 mandates, roads and infrastructure and small business growth to name a few.

As word of the group spread to people across the county, moderators and admin of the page had to filter out fake accounts and remove some people that did not participate in a productive manner.

Group admin Jason McComb said he created the group after recognizing the importance of people to be better informed and on the same page with how the local government was handling the issues they are passionate about.

"I think there is a lot of speculation, and I think it still happens in the group somewhat, and I'd like to get to the point where we get actual information," McComb said.

The group's 791 members, a



Councilman Tye Parsons (left) and Mayor Ben Lipiec attend a Maryville City Council meeting Nov. 23. Parsons, the Council's most outspoken member on COVID-19, has been a frequent target of recall talks among the Facebook group Maryville and Nodaway County Citizens Council.

number that continues to grow, participated in a poll published to the page by John McBride Nov. 30. Improved water quality ranked the highest, gaining 148 votes, effects of COVID-19 mandates got 76

votes, 66 votes went to roads and basic infrastructure and 58 votes went to small business growth.

In the comments section of the poll, several members said they couldn't decide because the issues were all equally important, or that the poll didn't represent their biggest concern.

Even with these concerns, voter turnout for municipal elections has been consistently low. In the 2020 municipal election, only 485 ballots were cast for the City Council race — the governing body most people in the group tend to share their thoughts about.

Isaiah Korthanke, a member of the group, is one of some looking into a recall petition.

"I've reached out to city clerk

"

We may be better served getting 2 additional conservative candidates put on council in April."

- JOHN MCBRIDE

Stacy Wood in regards to the total number of signatures needed... We will need 25% of voters registered to vote for city council. We will have 60 days to do so," Korthanke wrote.

Not many responded to Korthanke's post, and have instead been pushing voter turnout in the next municipal election.

"We may be better served getting 2 additional conservative candidates put on the council in April," McBride said in response.

McComb said he doesn't have an opinion on recalling Council members, but would like to see government processes act out naturally, that he would push for a higher voter turnout in April 2021.

"That part is more of some of the group members... and I'm not even trying to pretend to control the group whatsoever, I just try to keep it civil," McComb said. "I'm more of the mindset that we have two seats coming open in April, let it happen naturally. Not even one way or the other. It would just be nice to see more people come out and participate."

Though the group is marked by frustrated citizens who feel unheard in their concerns, people like Amy Gessert, another group member rallying around civility, posted Nov. 27.

"Any chance we can agree as a group not to be jerks to the people who have to enforce the mask and occupancy mandate, like the sweet girls working the door at Walmart today?" Gessert's post said. "I'm sure they'd rather be literally anywhere else."

Going forward, McComb said he hopes the group will continue on with its purpose as a group of concerned citizens voicing their concerns to those who can help make a difference in their community.

"I think there's been too many years when everybody has been settled in their own space, not being nearly as community minded as in years past," McComb said. "It would be good if we got back to a little of that."

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# ResLife gears up for new semester



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Sophomore resident assistant Aaron Simpson sits at the front desk in Hudson and Perrin Hall for his contract hours. Resident assistants work six contract hours at the desk and assist residents with various tasks such as checking out equipment and delivering packages.

MADELINE MAPES  
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

Northwest Residential Life is preparing for spring 2021 residents and room changes for next semester following an unprecedented time to live on campus as a student.

New residents come in every year, but with COVID-19 now influencing every aspect of residency, the University is taking extra steps to accommodate those coming in next semester.

Brandi Bix, coordinator of housing assignments, said she is expecting nearly 50 new residents for the spring 2021 semester. Bix said students are notified of their housing assignment and their prospective roommates via email. Some rooms throughout the residence halls have only one student, but with the new semester coming up, those who have a room to themselves and haven't paid for the extra side of the room can expect a roommate next semester.

Bix said that spring move-in is different, since the new residents usually "just trickle in," instead of arriving all-at-once like fall residents.

Generally during this time, or during winter break, there are also some students who move out or graduate. Then faculty like Bix have to pay attention to not only students coming in but also those going out.

Around this same time, students can switch to a more comfortable place if necessary or can request to room with their friends if possible.

With students switching around, some leaving and new ones coming in, it can be a challenge for faculty, especially this year.

"I would say it is a challenge every year," Bix said in an email. "It is a domino process. You have to handle the students checking out as well as the new ones checking in, making cleaning and work orders a priority over break."

Bix said none of the challenges for her office are really COVID-19 related and that residence halls themselves are taking on that responsibility.

"I definitely have to give the resident directors, student staff and custodial the credit in regards to COVID and how their processes are hindered by COVID," Bix said in an email. "There have been several meetings in regards to how to make sure once a resident checks out to allow for their area to be cleaned and sanitized to allow the next resident to move in. What students should do before returning to class is to be mindful of what they are exposing themselves to as well as what they could be exposing their roommate to. We cannot be successful without the students help and assistance throughout this process of leaving and returning. This is the same no matter if the students are new to campus or if they were here for the fall semester."

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## Student organization wades into debate over abortion

ABIGAIL STARR  
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

The Northwest Students for Life group is fighting for the unborn as the U.S. Supreme Court sits at a conservative majority and a Democratic president is set to take office in January.

Senior Tilena Conover, former president of Students for Life, grew up in an anti-abortion home in Maryville.

"It's become not just a belief of mine but a passion," Conover said. "I have always believed in conception to natural death is life. It just got stronger once I got to college, realizing how many people do have different views on that, and it made me more convicted to know where I stand."

The group's Social Media Chair Will Anderson and Vice President Logan Poppe share this passion. Anderson's anti-abortion fight began when he learned of his grandmother nearly being forced to abort his mother.

Students for Life is an organiza-

tion present on college campuses across the country. School to school, it operates in different ways.

"We're here to educate the younger generation because the more they know about what their rights are and what our history is, they can better know what is wrong and what is right to them," Conover said.

The group often works with The Source Medical Clinic in Maryville. CEO Gwen Knowles started the clinic seven years ago to fill a need in the community for expecting parents and young people in need of sexual health guidance. Its funding comes from donors in the community.

The clinic provides pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, sexually transmitted disease screening, parenting classes, baby supplies and abortion and birth control consultations. The clinic will refer patients to other medical professionals for birth control and abortion care.

"Abortion takes a life of a human being, and that's not health-

care," Knowles said.

Knowles said Planned Parenthood should be defunded out of respect for taxpayers' beliefs.

Jesse Lawder is the vice president of marketing and communications for the St. Louis branch of Planned Parenthood. He served as chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Labor during the Obama administration. Lawder returned to St. Louis to work with Planned Parenthood after hearing President Donald Trump was running for office. He said services like Source Medical are less about healthcare and more about talking people into giving birth.

Students for Life does not support Planned Parenthood. The organization cites research, like a clip from NBC news on YouTube, as evidence Planned Parenthood has a racist past, with the one goal of making money off of abortions.

Planned Parenthood offers many of the same services as Source Medical with the addition of abortion care and birth control. They



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Will Anderson discusses the details of the March for Life event during the Nov. 17 Student for Life meeting in the J. W. Jones Student Union.

also offer mammograms and cancer screenings.

Conover says she has yet to hear of any Planned Parenthood that is equipped to provide those services.

Lawder said there are two types of Planned Parenthood facilities. One offers abortions, while the other provides all of their other services such as STI testing and mammograms.

Anderson said his research has led him to believe Planned Parenthood was started as a eugenics project to stop the creation of minori-

ty babies. Poppe claims researchers have called Planned Parenthood and requested to donate to an abortion for a mother of color.

"That is one of the top five stupidest things I've ever heard about Planned Parenthood," Lawder said. "It is difficult to tell the difference between who really believes that versus those just adding to their agenda."

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

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Rev. Craig Kirby-Grove  
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## CRIME LOG

for the week of Dec. 3

### Maryville Department of Public Safety

#### Nov. 29

There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 300 block of North Market Street.

#### Nov. 27

A summons was issued to **Corey M. Ribble**, 28, of DeSoto, Missouri for possession of marijuana, minor in possession, open container and equipment violation.

#### Nov. 24

A summons was issued

to **Colton J. Hoover**, 20, of Country Club, Missouri for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession and careless and imprudent driving.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1500 block of East First Street.

A summons was issued to **Corey M. Ribble**, 28, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear.

#### Nov. 23

There is an ongoing investigation for identity theft on the 100 Block of North Vine Street.

#### Nov. 22

There was an accident on the 800 block of South Hester Street between an unknown vehicle and **Jacob A. Partridge**.

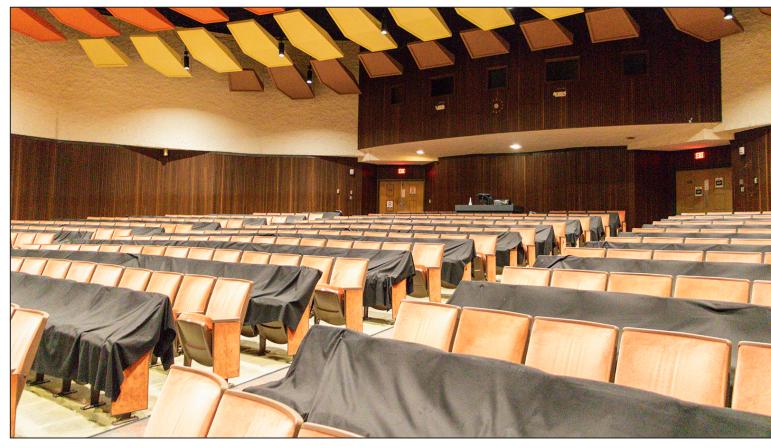
## Arts building to undergo changes

ASHLEY LOSSON  
News Reporter | @ashley\_losson

The Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building will undergo changes for acoustical improvements following Northwest's 2020-21 academic year.

During the summer of 2021, the Fine Arts Building will look a little different with improvements coming to the Charles Johnson Theater, the several teaching studios and the practice rooms throughout the building. These improvements will result in a better quality of sound.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

The Charles Johnson Theater is set to undergo acoustical improvements this upcoming summer to help diminish sound carrying from the theater.

## MOSAIC

CONTINUED FROM A1

With limited room in hospitals, the president of Mosaic - Maryville noted that these changes are made based on the balance of the volume ratio of COVID-19 patients to other patient needs, such as surgeries.

This is a common theme throughout Missouri hospitals, with the Missouri Department of Mental Health releasing resources to help cope with the stress that healthcare workers are facing during the pandemic.

Blackford said Mosaic has benefit structures with financial incentives in place to compensate for extra shifts that have been picked up from staff who are not able to make it to work, but these benefits are not unique to staff working through the pandemic.

He acknowledged repeatedly that this line of work is already stressful as it is, and the pandemic has taken a toll on caregivers.

"It's a very stressful time," Blackford said. "We are doing our best to try to take care of those who take care of our patients."

Mosaic - Maryville has implemented employee assistance programs that allow caregivers to step away from direct patient care. This means healthcare staff can take some time away from the stress that comes with caring for patients, while someone else would fill that role.

Blackford mentioned that Mosaic - Maryville also provides pro-

grams and tools for employees that aid in financial, emotional and mental support.

Blackford noted that the hospital does its best to look out for its staff and the staff often look out for one another as well.

The Northwest Missourian pursued interviews with staff at Mosaic - Maryville for a first person account of working during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Relations Manager Rita Miller asked several nurses and doctors at Mosaic to be interviewed.

In an email to the Northwest Missourian, Miller said she was having a difficult time finding people who were willing or had the time to do an interview.

"Several are out sick, and the others are stretched filling in to see all the patients," Miller said.

At Mosaic - Maryville the amount of hospital staff out with COVID-19 is higher than the state average of 3-10%; they are currently sitting at 5-10%. Additionally, mental health services for patients has been temporarily shut down due to an increase in positive cases among the staff.

The amount of positive cases between the Mosaic - Maryville staff is reflected by an increase in cases in the community.

The unpredicted spike in COVID-19 cases across Nodaway County has dwindled by a little more than 100 cases. As of Nov. 28, the latest data available at the time of

publication, there are 250 current cases and a seven-day rolling average of 21 cases.

With all these statistics in mind, Blackford spoke at the Nov. 23 Maryville City Council meeting to give a hospital update. At that meeting, there was a seventh emergency order discussion that added to the enforcement of the face covering mandate. With this enforcement, the goal is to decrease the number of cases in Maryville.

However, Blackford said at the Nov. 23 City Council meeting that as the temperatures drop, COVID-19 cases will rise.

An October NPR report projects the national COVID-19 deaths to be in the lower 300,000 to the upper 400,000 range by February due to the winter months ahead.

An additional TIME magazine report shows that in the last two weeks, Missouri has gained more than 57,000 new cases, 1,770 of those in Nodaway County, and 243 probable cases.

With case numbers only rising statewide, Blackford said Missouri hospitals and Mosaic - Maryville are going to have to keep adapting with the growing numbers of cases, which is unlikely to make the jobs of these frontline healthcare workers any easier.

"(I am) very proud of our staff for how they have rallied around not only our patients during this difficult time but also around each other," Blackford said.

## SPRING 2021

CONTINUED FROM A1

While Hooyman said classroom interactions resulted in cases less frequently than other interactions, one change involves keeping a record of what classrooms allowed students to distance properly and compare cases out of those rooms to those with less space.

Freshman Gianna Filardo was put in quarantine the first week of classes due to a positive test result in early August. Filardo said she wasn't surprised by the spike in cases at Northwest in August. Once she was in class, she felt safe with masks and alternate attendance. Filardo's professors communicated frequently, making expectations clear to Filardo and her classmates.

Filardo lives in Hudson-Perrin, where masks are required at all times, outside guests are not welcome, and on campus guests must be escorted around the hall. She's been told by resident assistants and instructors that the spring will look the same.

"I'm a little bummed," Filardo said. "I feel like we did a good job this semester, so we could try to branch out."

Associate Provost of Graduate Schools Greg Haddock took complaints from students who were put into quarantine twice, sometimes three times. Once he was able to understand their frustrations and assure them quarantine was the safest option, they shared their needs with empathy. Haddock valued getting to know students and make adjustments based on their feedback.

Nodaway county has been declared a Category 1: Extreme Risk area. On Nov. 30, there were 250 active cases and 10 hospitalizations.

Hooyman asks students to do three things over winter break to ensure another full semester on campus. The first is to be prepared to be as compliant and adaptable as they were in the fall.

When students returned to campus in August, the University noticed the spike in cases and reacted with encouragement from President John Jasinski to make safer choices if they wanted to stay on campus. The reaction to this warning showed in the numbers of cases in the following weeks.

"You're still going to have your concerns, fears and changes, but for the most part, people are just really happy to be able to be in classes and be on the college campus," Hooyman said.

The second request is to use safe

judgement when socializing with friends. Staying in small groups and wearing masks ensures less super spreader events.

The third need is the most difficult for Hooyman to ask for but also what she said would be the most beneficial. She said students should attempt to quarantine before coming back to campus to make sure they return healthy and COVID-19 free.

"I really do give a lot of kudos to our students. Without them helping to make this work it would be really easy for us to just go online," Hooyman said.

Filardo has made few plans outside of family gatherings for the holidays. After testing positive over summer break, she doesn't want to risk quarantining during another start to the semester. She predicts few students will do the same and anticipates another spike when students return in January.

After 25 years at Northwest, Haddock said he's impressed by the Bearcat community now more than ever before. His favorite feature of Northwest is the students who seek out a dedicated University like Northwest. With the highest enrollment in University history, Haddock said it would be unfair to describe the semester negatively.

"We haven't said a lot because we don't want to look like we're proud of stealing students from other universities despite mitigations," Haddock said.

Haddock would like to hear feedback from students at other universities to see what was successful in their mitigation efforts and in return offer advice based on the fall. He said Bearcats should use their break to have conversations with others to promote compassion and influence others to adapt safe habits.

Northwest's Provost's Office said they understand the semester has been difficult. Hooyman recommends students reach out to Wellness Services for both their physical and emotional needs. Jasinski urged students in a mass email to celebrate all that was achieved this semester despite less than ideal circumstances. Hooyman also said it's important for students to cut themselves and each other some slack.

"If there's ever been a time in our country where we need to look out for each other, I'd say we're there, and that's the Bearcat way, which is what I think makes us outstanding," Hooyman said.

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# FOR THE CULTURE: Top five Black holiday movies for you

CORBIN SMITH  
Columnist  
@curly\_corbs



It's been a long and difficult year, but finally, we've reached the final month of this hellish trip around the sun. December is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, so maybe there's hope that the final holiday spirit hurrah will replace some light in our lives.

One of my favorite holiday traditions is watching Christmas movies. You may be thinking of the adventurous tales of Buddy the Elf or Kevin McCallister. Personally, some of my favorites are the nostalgia-ridden claymation movies, but as I've grown, I've developed a different taste for holiday themed cinema.

Representation is important for people of color in America, and Black Christmas films offer something Will Ferrell films can't. For me, these movies feel more sincere because people look like me, talk like me and my family's dynamic parallels those seen in most of the movies listed below. Relatability can go a long way in the hearts of movie-goers.

Without further ado, here are my top five Christmas movies with a mostly melanated cast.

## 5. "A Madea Christmas"

To start my list, we have a light-hearted comedy with the infamous Madea. As a kid, Madea movies were always funny to me, and this is no exception. "A Madea Christmas" highlights heavy family issues, but overall, this movie is a good way to start your immersion into Black Christmas movies. With commentary on interracial relationships and regular dose of Madea madness, it'll surely entertain you.

## 4. "Friday After Next"

Succeeding similarly titled movies "Friday" and "Next Friday," Ice Cube delivers another hit with this chaos-filled comedy. "Friday After Next" is the funniest movie on the list and is a great watch for a laid back evening. Being less of a family movie, it's probably best not to watch this with children because not every character is on the nice list. Starring Ice Cube, Mike Epps, Kat Williams and Terry Crews, this movie brings a different kind of holiday cheer, but it's one of my favorite holiday films.

## 3. "The Best Man Holiday"

This movie secured its spot when Morris Chestnut crumpled into tears. With co-stars Taye Diggs, Nia Long, Terrence Howard, Regina Hall, and more, "The Best Man Holiday" is easily the saddest, and most dramatic, movie on this list. This film shows how easily relationships can deteriorate when you don't accept your past and how holding a grudge can ruin the present. It's mature humor perfectly balances the drama, and the heartfelt moments set up a great heartbreak, making it one of the best Black Christmas movies ever.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

## OUR VIEW:

# HIJACKED

## Ignorant trolls corrupt well-intentioned forum

The extreme political actors have had a grand time in 2020, as was evident in the bitter partisanship that populated every thread of the fabric of the U.S. political landscape during the election cycle.

Now, those who wish to name-call, spread misinformation and be offended have hijacked a group intent on fostering discussion on local political issues in Maryville and Nodaway County.

The Maryville and Nodaway County Resident Council was created on Facebook to discuss issues citizens had with the Maryville City Council. It is perfectly valid to debate issues of local government and to disagree with those making the decisions. Representative democracy rather than direct democracy means that some people are inevitably going to be unhappy with those leading because they don't feel represented.

Almost immediately, the group was besieged by those looking for a platform to spew misinformation and hatred, mainly regarding COVID-19. Small business issues and discussions of the infamous water quality from Mozingo were thrown to the wayside so those who still believe the coronavirus is a hoax or not dangerous can spread their message.

For the umpteenth time, COVID-19 is not the flu. It is deadlier, genetically different and spreads more easily. We haven't had decades to develop medicines and regular vaccinations to stop the coronavirus like we have the flu. Even with the countless mitigation measures we have put in place, like social distancing, mask-wearing and quarantining after

exposure -- none of which we do for the flu -- this virus has killed more people since March than the flu has in the past five flu seasons.

At this point, there is no excuse for ignorance in this area. The same goes for masks.

Of course, many of those boldest in their ignorance have decided to attack the City Council because of the mask mandate. It's important to note that this mandate has not had a citation written for it yet. It's more important to note that mask mandates work in slowing the spread of the coronavirus and keeping others safe.

These fringe COVID-19 "truthers" don't care about that though. They have created some sort of delusional fantasy that likens the Maryville City Council to the tyrant King George and themselves to the brave American revolutionaries.

They are willing to fight and die on this hill of personal freedom over not wearing a mask because it is "government overreach." They have no qualms with the "government overreach" that required them to obtain a driver's license, follow traffic laws and wear clothes in public, but a piece of cloth on their face that could save others' lives: that's where they draw the line.

Other members of the group tried to distract or confront the rambunctious few. They attempted to show them scientific facts or steer the conversation to another topic, but inevitably it would always come back to the mask and the overreach of the City Council and other local officials.

The next logical — or rather illogi-

cal — step in the implosion was to begin the name-calling. Maryville City Manager Greg McDaniel and Councilman Tye Parsons were the most frequent targets of childish insults; many called for their removal from office or worse. The best way to be listened to and taken seriously by a public official is to hurl barbs at them on social media. Surely, they will be more likely to cave to the ludicrous demands if you call them a string of expletives in a Facebook post void of grammar or coherency.

Again some tried to steer the group in another direction, but the engagement emboldened many of the trolls to keep going. Some members even brought up that City Council elections took place this summer and along with a low turnout, both candidates ran unopposed. That's the real issue that will of course be lost in the shuffle. It is hard to have elected officials that represent the goals of the citizenry if no one votes or is willing to run against those they disagree with.

The acts of a few will damage the goals of the many; in the case of the coronavirus, it is those who spread lies about the virus and refuse to wear a mask. In the case of the Maryville and Nodaway County Resident council, it is those likely same individuals who have decided to spread their diseased and warped facts and ideals on an open platform.

It is perfectly valid for residents of this city and county to criticize local government. The group may have been created with good intentions, but it quickly morphed into a representation of the very worst of local politics, and that's a shame.

## THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat doesn't know what to do

What even is this week supposed to be? All week I have felt like I woke up from a nap at 9 p.m. and have no recollection of where I am or what I am supposed to be doing. The weird purgatory-like state we are in this week between the worlds of finals week and break is a lot to handle.

Firstly, am I supposed to be doing stuff or not doing stuff? Yeah, I know I have finals to study for, but I have like all of the last 45 minutes before I have to take those tests to cram, so I'm not

starting that early. Every morning I wake up and feel as though I need to go to class or complete assignments only to get on Canvas and be reminded that we do not in fact have new assignments. To keep me somewhat occupied, I have actually started filling out course evaluations.

Secondly, where are all the people? You all loved the last 5 days with your parents so much you stayed? What? Does your family have a healthy relationship or something? This is ridiculous.

Maryville is an absolute ghost town — It's like that one scene in every western where the one street in town is empty and a tumbleweed rolls by, except it lasts weeks instead of seconds — right now, and the air outside just feels depressing.

The campus is not immune to the dead atmosphere either. To me, it resembles what I would imagine Missouri Western's campus is like during its busiest times. Parking lots are 85% empty and the only people actually here are

the ones who are paid to be. The Grinch — the guy from the beginning of the movie not the lovey-dovey boring one at the end — would approve of the lack of holiday cheer.

Lastly, will this happen every semester? I hope so because this weird state that the town and campus are in is the most interesting thing that has happened since I came here.

*The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.*

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# BARNES AND NOBLE



PARKER SCHMITZ | SUBMITTED

A submitted file photo of Northwest football redshirt sophomore Joe Barnes during practice Oct. 6 at Bearcat Stadium.

## Bearcat football player pens debut novel

NATHAN ENGLISH  
Reporter | @nathan\_3nglish

The total process took around 33 months. From the outline to endless hours spent typing away on a Google Docs to countless revisions and edits. In just under three years, redshirt sophomore Northwest football player Joe Barnes completed his novel.

Perhaps somewhat unusually, Barnes fell in love with writing before he fell in love with reading. Beginning with a simple short story assignment in second grade, Barnes continued to build on his craft throughout middle and high school.

"He was always writing something," Joe Barnes' father said, his name is also Joe Barnes.

It was in middle school where the younger Barnes would first set the goal for himself of writing a novel. He tried multiple times in his early teenage years to achieve this goal, but he had trouble sticking with it.

"Being younger, you don't have that perseverance that I kind of learned over time," the younger Barnes said.

He got serious in high school, however, and decided that this time he would see the process through till the end. "Lost Ones," the younger Barnes self-published in this summer, began with a simple plot outline. The younger Barnes didn't plan out the meticulous details for the journey of Ty Mitchell, the 21-year-old college student who is the protagonist of the story.

He didn't have a set process for writing the novel. Sometimes months would pass without him adding so much as another word on the page. Other times the younger Barnes would voraciously attack the process, writing long hours for weeks at a time.

As the novel about the hardships of being a college student began to take shape, the younger Barnes' football career was taking flight for the Liberty Blue Jays. He earned all-state honors at the safety position during his junior and senior years of high school. He described himself as undersized and admits he didn't have high expectations for himself.

"I underestimated my own abilities," the younger Barnes said. "When I started going through high school, I finally started realizing I was actually kind of good at this (football)."

The younger Barnes' final two years in high school cemented that his time at Liberty would not be his last on a football field. Northwest head football coach Rich Wright made the trip 95 miles south to invite him to walk on as a Bearcat.

"This was the only place I really wanted to go," the younger Barnes said.

The Barnes family is a Northwest family through and through. Parents the elder Barnes and Kristy Barnes met at Northwest. Jackson,

Jacob, Mary and the younger Joe Barnes all followed in their parents' footsteps and chose to attend Northwest with Jackson Barnes also taking the field at Bearcat Stadium on Saturdays as a starting linebacker.

While transitioning from high school to college, the younger Barnes kept writing. He kept the novel and its idea to himself, however.

"No one had any clue until he was about done with it; that's when he broke the news to the family," the elder Barnes said.

The younger Barnes told family, teammates, coaches and friends when the book was nearly complete. Fellow Northwest defensive back Keilon Hunter was one of his most ardent supporters but was still pleasantly surprised when the book finally came out.

"I didn't think it was gonna be 300 something pages," Hunter said. "When I first read the first chapter, I was like 'This kid's special.'"

Hunter found out about the novel when it was midway through the publishing process. Hunter described himself as somewhat of a pest, constantly bugging his teammate for updates and asking when he was going to be able to read it.

Reactions like Hunter's were why the young author decided to keep his work under wraps. While he appreciated the attention and the care people had for him and his book, it only added to the pressure put on him to finish. The younger Barnes put much of that pressure on himself as he described himself as his own worst critic.

"I think you have to be. If you don't like it, why would anyone else?" the younger Barnes said.

He started telling others about the novel in January, when he believed it was close to being finished. The elder printed out multiple copies of the book for friends and family to read. The 300-page monstrosities of printer paper were held together with enormous paper clips. He read the book his son had written from start to finish in just two days.

While the younger Barnes had edited and re-edited much of the novel, it still needed fresh eyes, and family friend Jessica Lutz stepped in to help. Lutz would edit the books section by section, and Barnes would correct what was needed as he went. Lutz focused on everything from simple grammar and sentence structure to plot details.

"She asked me what specifically I wanted her to look for, and I said 'literally anything you can find,'" the younger Barnes said.

The book was finished with edits in July and ready to be published. The young author and his family entertained the idea of getting a publisher and an agent, but given the hassle and cost, they decided it would be best to self-publish.

"Lost Ones" was published through Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing July 31. The novel can be purchased through Ama-

zon, and upon purchase, it will be built and then shipped to the customer. Barnes doesn't get immediate numbers on the sales of "Lost Ones." It takes upwards of two months after the purchase of the book for Barnes' family to be able to see how many copies had sold in a given month. Prior to publishing, the younger Barnes set a loose estimate/goal of 250 books sold. He sold 165 in August.

As others started to get copies of "Lost Ones," feedback started flooding in. Friends of friends and complete strangers would reach out to the younger Barnes to tell him they loved his work. He even took three copies of the novel to a community library, and they were gone the next day.

"There's people that I haven't talked to in probably 15 to 20 years that are texting me or calling me and saying 'I just read your son's book; it's awesome,'" the elder Barnes said.

Some of the younger Barnes' fans came from inside the locker room as well. Numerous coaches and players like Hunter have bought their own copies and have plans to read it over break.

"Anybody who reads it and has been to college will be able to relate to the book," Hunter said.

While it may seem to many that the young author's passions are very much opposite of one another, football is often characterized by its violent fast-paced nature that relies on peak athleticism and aggression. Writing is often characterized by a quiet determination and academic ambition, both Barnes and Hunter see them hand-in-hand.

"From football, I've learned a lot of resiliency and being persistent, and that definitely carries over with writing," the younger Barnes said.

The Bearcat safety prides himself on the mental side of the game, which he said is about 80% of football. The younger Barnes believes his ability to read the offense is his best attribute as a football, Hunter agrees. Dissecting what the opposing team is going to do and how logically each player on the field will react lends itself to story progression and character development in a novel.

"He's one of the smartest kids in our position group, so it's not really surprising," Hunter said of Barnes's writing prowess.

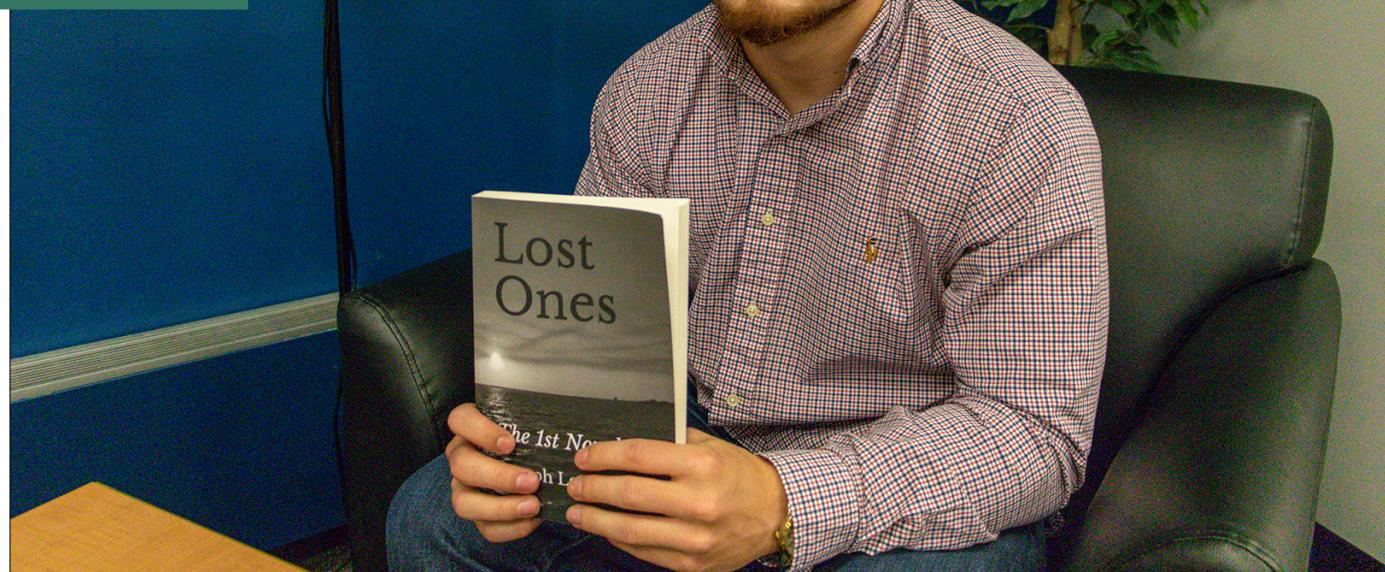
COVID-19 prevented the younger Barnes from suiting up to play on the gridiron for the first time since he was a kindergartner. The pandemic cost him playing time, but in a sense gave him more free time, which he used initially to help finish his last book and is now using to start his next one. He wouldn't reveal the subject matter and said only that it will be nonfiction.

The younger Barnes plans to graduate from Northwest with a degree in English education and become a high school English teacher. He, of course, also wants to coach football. He plans to continue to write steadily even after college.

"You could tell from day one the kid was going to be successful," the elder Barnes said. "He's very passionate about anything he's doing."

## JOE BARNES

Student athlete and author



Northwest student-athlete junior Joseph Barnes published his first novel, "Lost Ones," July 28.

GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

# COVID, football drops boys out of play

TANNER SMITH  
Sports Reporter | @t\_smit02

Despite missing key players due to Maryville football's title run, Maryville boys basketball was hoping to play in its first action of the 2020-21 season starting Dec. 1 at the 92nd Annual Savannah Invitational.

The Spoofhounds have been in full practice mode for the past three weeks, but a lot of the starting five has been out because they also compete on the football team, which is set to compete in the MSHSAA Class 3 Championship Dec. 7 against Blair Oaks.

As of the week starting Nov. 23, this is the third group of boys who have had to miss out on practice because of either having COVID-19 or being in close contact with someone infected by the virus.

The 'Hounds were set to start their season against Hogan Prep in the first round of the Savannah Invitational Dec. 1.

"If the tournament started today, and I needed to fill a varsity team, I would only be able to choose from five to six freshmen and two to three sophomores," Maryville coach Matt Stoecklein said Nov. 24.

It'd be an easy fix if the kids still playing football could play basketball as well, but they aren't able to do that.

With many kids out due to COVID-19, once they are cleared to come back to school, they have to go through two weeks of running before they even step back onto the court.

With the team trying to get as much practice in as it can before the opening tipoff, now slated for Dec. 11 against Jefferson, Stoecklein said he may only have seven kids show up to practice one day and 14 the next, depending on who is out because of COVID-19.

"With the number of cases growing each day, it is tough to say what is going to happen," Stoecklein said about the recent surge in cases across Nodaway County. "I have told my players if they feel even slightly sick, or someone at home is sick, to just stay at home because



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville boys basketball freshman Cooper Gastler dribbles down and back with coach Matt Stoecklein Nov. 3 in Fema gymnasium. The Spoofhounds' first home non-conference game is Dec. 11 against Jefferson in the 'Hound Pound.'

there is not much else we can do."

To provide safety for the players and coaches, there are talks of allowing two tickets per player for fans to come to the game. There have also been talks that no fans will be allowed for extra precaution.

Roster sizes for the freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams are also being cut down to lower numbers, including not all of the athletes being able to travel to away games because of social distancing guidelines.

Freshmen will have a maximum of 12 players, and junior varsity and varsity will both be limited to 10 players.

After football's championship, regardless of the outcome, that makes Stoecklein's job easier because he will have five players returning that started at some point last season.

The team will also be short on practice time since this will essentially be the first time the Spoofhounds are stepping onto the court

as a team this year. They would be able to get one or two practices in before leaving for this tournament.

"This year has been a lot different because, usually, a lot of the guys will play in 15-20 games during the summer and that did not happen this year," Stoecklein said.

"I am confident that they will be ready to play once they return, but it is also difficult since they haven't been on the court for a while."

As for the other teams that were supposed to participate in the tour-

nament, Kearney was on the court with its full team for the past three weeks. Savannah has been hit-or-miss for when it has been able to practice. Hogan Prep, which would have been the team the Spoofhounds faced first, hardly had any time on the court either.

"I am hoping to be able to place my team on the court and let them get out and compete," Stoecklein said. "Even with little practice time, I feel they will be able to hold their own because many of the guys are returners."

## STATE CONTINUED FROM A10

The final drive came after 58 minutes and 53 seconds of football in which Maryville had mostly dominated. Drake found senior receiver Kade Wilmes for a 39-yard touchdown for the game's first score nearly eight minutes into the contest, giving Maryville a 7-0 lead that it built on throughout the first three quarters, though the Spoofhounds did so at a deliberate pace.

For much of the first half, Maryville's offense sputtered. The Spoofhounds started two consecutive drives less than 35 yards away from Cassville's end zone but failed to come away with any points in either showing. While the offense was slow to find its footing in much of the game's first half, Maryville's defense put on a clinic. Cassville didn't move the chains until the second quarter. The Wildcats didn't score until the fourth.

As Maryville maintained a 7-0 lead deep into the second quarter, Cassville's offense started to find momentum. Led by senior quarterback Hayden Sink, the Wildcats strung together a pair of first downs with under three minutes left until halftime, one of which came via a quarterback keeper from Sink.

As the Wildcats faced a critical fourth-and-inches on their own 47-yard line, Maryville senior linebacker Connor Weiss and defensive back Cooper Loe combined for a pivotal stop behind the line of scrimmage, one close enough that the officiating crew called for the chain gang to make their way from the east sideline, converging near midfield for a measurement.

After the crew's white cap signaled Cassville had come up short, Maryville fans, players and coaches burst into celebration. Maryville coach Matt Webb tuned back to the sideline, stoic. There was still work to be done.

Moments after Weiss contributed on the fourth-down play, the linebacker who triples as the team's leading back and starting placekicker, booted a 24-yard field goal with 2.9 seconds left to give Maryville a 10-0 lead heading into the locker room.

Wearing No. 2 for the 'Hounds in a nod to Walker, who suffered a season-ending leg injury in Week 1, Weiss played a familiar, crucial role for Maryville. He converted on an impressive punt from Maryville's end zone late in the third quarter. He

hit all but one of his point-after attempts in a game Maryville won by 2. And he scored Maryville's second touchdown of the contest, capping off a 69-yard drive with a 5-yard rush to put the Spoofhounds up 17-0.

"There was just so many key moments in that game, but to be 17-nothing against that team, offensively, and what they possessed — our defense just was getting stops," Webb said, before crediting Cassville for its tenacity and play design.

"A lot of credit to Cassville, that was a hard-fought football game."

After holding Cassville's offense at bay for the entirety of three quarters, Maryville's defense lapsed, allowing two touchdowns to the Wildcats in the first two minutes of the fourth quarter. After Sink scored on a 3-yard rush with 11:49 left in the game, he found senior running back Jericho Ferris for a 30-yard touchdown to cut Maryville's lead to 3 following a successful onside kick attempt.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## MEN CONTINUED FROM A10

They'll, of course, have the opportunity to do that against the Mules, a team Northwest has played 224 times. Central has the upper hand in the all-time series with a record of 124-96 against the Bearcats. However, Northwest has taken nine of the last 10 matchups.

"We just try to treat every opponent the same," McCollum said. "It's not necessarily a rivalry for us. It's, 'Hey, we get to compete. Let's go out, play somebody with a different color jersey and see what happens.'"

McCollum knows that the Mules are going to be a tough out, despite their losing record after the first couple of weekends of the season. He knows it won't be easy — mostly because there's no telling what the MIAA has in store.

After the loss to Central last year, McCollum referred to it as the perfect storm in regards to ev-

erything going right for the Mules and everything going wrong for the Bearcats. However, he knows there are things Central will bring to the table in their first meeting of the season.

"They defend at a high level," McCollum said. "They're long, athletic and got some good guards. Obviously, they beat us last year, so they'll have the confidence in knowing that they can. You have to get on 'em early and hope your effort can outweigh theirs."

Among a season already af-

fected by an ongoing pandemic, the haunting of their lone loss in the last 50 games and the stout competition of the MIAA, McCollum is hoping none of that matters when the Bearcats face the Mules.

He's hoping to add another notch in the belt that is Northwest's winning streak.

"Hopefully we get ourselves to a high level and make sure we eliminate all excuses of COVID, or whatever it may be, and come out there and fight and compete," McCollum said.

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RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

In a Missourian file photo, Tyrell Maddox takes first in the 400-meter dash at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships March 1. Maddox was set to compete at the NCAA Division II championships before the event was canceled due to COVID-19, but he is hoping to compete again this spring.

## Fifth-year seniors prep for spring track season

MORGAN GUYER  
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Many college athletes were heartbroken with the cancellation of spring sports earlier in the year due to COVID-19. This rings true for Northwest track and field runners Hiba Mahgoub and Tyrell Maddox.

Both fifth-year seniors, the two athletes had their hopes dashed when the NCAA Division II championships in Birmingham, Alabama, March 13-14 were canceled. The cancellation stings even more considering both Mahgoub and Maddox are unable to run indoor track this year. However, their chance at glory can come later during the outdoor season.

"The season being canceled at nationals last year has motivated me to go harder," Maddox said. "I feel as though now I have to go take everything they took from last year and finish this season with a bang."

"When it got cancelled, I was upset. I was able to overcome it though," Mahgoub said. "I wanted more, and I'm really motivated to run and compete at a high level."

Maddox started his collegiate track career at Army West Point but decided to transfer to Northwest last season.

"My decision to transfer was based on a fresh start. I felt like there was no room for me to grow at my previous school," Maddox

said. "I ultimately chose Northwest because the coaches did a good job working with me and ensuring that things would work out the way I wanted them to."

Maddox had a successful senior year on the track, being named a USTFCCCA All-American in the 4x400-meter relay, an event that he was set to run in at the NCAA championships.

Alongside Maddox, the relay team consisted of Caelon Harkey, Omar Austin and Abdelrahim Mahgoub. They broke the school record with a time of 3 minutes, 10 seconds and 96 milliseconds, a program record and the third fastest in the country.

Maddox received all-region honors in three events and found success in the 400-meter run, finishing first at the MIAA championships.

"My experience at Northwest has been good and productive," Maddox said. "Through the track team and various organizations, I have made lots of friends."

Mahgoub has also found her own share of success during her Northwest career.

Mahgoub was named an USTFCCCA All-American in three events last season, while receiving all-region honors in two.

She broke two school records throughout the season, running at 54.36 in the 400-meter dash, which was also the fastest in the country

at the time. She set the program record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.89.

Mahgoub's efforts helped make the women's track and field team the fifth best in the USTFCCCA National Index. She also excelled in the classroom, earning All-Academic honors as a finance major.

"My experience has been good," Mahgoub said. "I'm glad that the University has made it possible for all of us to be on campus and participate in our sports and hobbies."

While both runners made major marks last season, they know it's no use dwelling on the past, as preparation begins for the future.

"I've spent my time preparing for the outdoor season," Mahgoub said. "I am digging in at every practice, knowing I have more time to get the numbers I need and want."

"With not being able to compete indoors, not much has changed with my schedule. I pretty much have a routine schedule," Maddox said. "My preparation has been training hard, staying healthy and trying to lose weight."

Track and field coach Brandon Masters has taken notice in his two stars, and expects them to continue to improve. Masters was impressed with Maddox after one year in the program.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](http://NWMISSOURINEWS.COM)

## Trio of jobs occupy time of Spoofhounds' coach

ALEX KELLY  
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Working three jobs right after graduating college might seem a little excessive to some, but not to Trayvon Taylor.

Taylor, a Chicago native, moved to Maryville during the summer of 2017, when he was a sophomore in college. He transferred to Northwest from Heartland Community College in Bloomington, Illinois, because one of his older brothers was a recent alumnus.

Being new to small towns, Taylor quickly adapted to the environment. Taylor graduated from Northwest in the fall 2019 with a bachelor's degree in organizational communication.

When he moved here, Taylor applied at Aramark, a food company that runs through the J. W. Jones Student Union, to ensure he would have enough money for tuition and the other financial nuances that college life brings to stu-

ing in Maryville after graduating, but things took a turn.

In addition to his job with Aramark, Taylor took on two more jobs after he graduated to make sure he could save enough money to move to Kansas City, Missouri, comfortably.

"Maryville has offered me the opportunity to grow and prosper in so many different ways," Taylor said.

Taylor moved to Maryville on his own will, wanting a fresh new start and opportunities to meet new people. He periodically visited his brother when he attended Northwest before his brother graduated in 2014. Taylor enjoys the company of himself and not having to rely on anyone.

"This allowed me to mature by not having any dependency on my parents for financial obligations that I may have needed," Taylor said. "This allowed me to realize it's just me in this world, so it's do or die."

DeAngelo Johnson, commonly

known as Taylor's assistant managers at Aramark. Taylor and Johnson both manage Chick-Fil-A, Zen and Einstein Bros. Bagels. Johnson has been with Aramark for three consecutive years and has known Taylor for as long as he's been there.

"Tray does his job right the first time, shows up on time or even before his time to clock in," Johnson said. "He's definitely the most reliable and available worker we have seen in a while."

When Taylor gets off work at Aramark, he rushes to the basketball court to help coach boys basketball at Maryville High School. Taylor is the assistant head coach for the boys varsity basketball team and the head coach for the boys junior varsity team.

Taylor played basketball, baseball and football throughout his high school career. He enjoyed playing basketball the most.

"The most notable experience I had with my sports career was when I went all-state for basketball my senior year 2013 at Metea Valley High School," Taylor said.

Taylor wanted to continue his basketball career, either playing or coaching. When the offer to coach high school came into the picture, he was more than thrilled to be a part of it.

Matt Stoecklein has been coaching basketball at Maryville High School for 18 years, spending the last seven years at the helm of the program as head coach.

"Tray brings a lot of energy to



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN  
Trayvon Taylor shows off his basketball skills during the Maryville boys' junior varsity basketball practice Nov. 20 in the Maryville High School gym. Taylor helps coach the team Monday-Friday each week for two hours a day.

Stoecklein said. "He took it on his own to adjust the practice plans because he had a group that just wasn't ready for what we were doing yet."

Taylor and Stoecklein work hand in hand when coaching the basketball team.

"The other day, I had a group

that's at a certain basketball skill level, and he had a group that's at a different basketball skill level,"

Taylor's plan is for everyone to achieve greatness. By doing that, he ensures that nobody is left behind or confused, whether that's on or off the court. Taylor plans on pursuing a new coaching position in the near future.

"I eventually want to start my own Amateur Athletic Union travel basketball team," Taylor said.

"This organization is designed to promote and develop amateur sports and physical fitness. Here,

kids get the opportunities to display their abilities and talents for college teams."

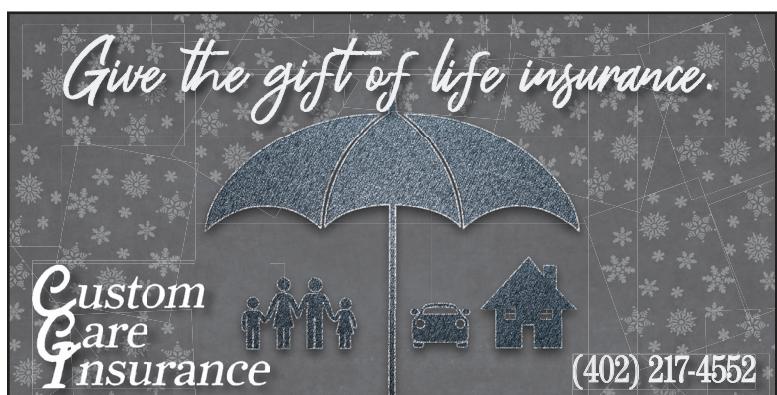
While Taylor is off Aramark's clock and off the court, he can be found at his third job. Mostly on the weekends, Taylor works at the Cobblestone Inn and Suites, where he folds laundry and greets customers as they walk in.

Taylor has been at the hotel for nearly eight months and enjoys the extra money. He works night shifts at the hotel, logging about 18 hours a week.

"I enjoy working at Cobblestone Inn and Suites. It's doable, and it's good money for my savings account," Taylor said. "I don't really need it, but I keep it so I have enough money saved up for when I move."

The former all-state basketball athlete doesn't have much free time. With the little free time he does have, he enjoys to sit back and relax with friends.

FULL STORY ONLINE:  
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dents. Taylor didn't plan on staying

known among his peers as "Cof-

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Taylor wanted to continue his basketball career, either playing or coaching. When the offer to coach high school came into the picture, he was more than thrilled to be a part of it.

Matt Stoecklein has been coaching basketball at Maryville High School for 18 years, spending the last seven years at the helm of the program as head coach.

"Tray brings a lot of energy to

the court as an assistant coach," Stoecklein said. "He doesn't mind going and doing his own thing with his JV team."

Taylor and Stoecklein work

hand in hand when coaching the basketball team.

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# Women hoping to build on first win

CALVIN SILVERS  
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers



Northwest women's basketball traveled to Oklahoma, completing their first two games Nov. 19 and Nov. 21 and returned to Maryville with a record of 1-1.

The Bearcats' season opener was against Northeastern State. Northwest jumped out to a 5-0 lead, but Northeastern State (2-1) kept the contest close the remainder of the first half, gaining a 27-26 lead.

The beginning of the third quarter was a duplicate for the Bearcats, as they began on another 5-0 run. However, the RiverHawks never allowed Northwest to pull away, using its own 6-0 run to end the third quarter up 46-40.

Coach Austin Meyer noticed the team was unable to do the small things correctly, which allowed Northeastern to hang around with the favored Bearcats.

"We never could stretch it (the lead). Anytime we got to a point where we felt like, OK, we got a little bit going, we would give up an offensive rebound, or we wouldn't fight around the post," Meyer said. "We have to clean some stuff up, which I thought we did a great job of making improvements off of things we didn't do well."

With two minutes remaining in the game, the Bearcats missed a layup that would've brought them within 1 point, and eventually lost 64-56.

"They're a much-improved team from last year," Meyer said about the RiverHawks. "Offensive rebounds — we gave up way too many, which is something that we know we got to get better at, and post defense we really struggled at."

Despite a loss, Northwest freshman guard Molly Hartnett showed why she deserved to be on the court, regardless of her inexperience. Hartnett led the team with 22 points in her Bearcat debut on 10-of-16 shooting from the field. Hartnett also dominated the boards, leading the team with nine rebounds.

"She's been our most efficient player in the preseason. She's a high field goal percentage kid. She shoots it well from the 3 and has a great feel for the game. She opens a lot of things up for us," Meyer said. "She's the best player that we've had that can get downhill and make things happen."

Bearcat senior guard Jaelyn Haggard was kept quiet from the field, scoring 6 points. Haggard wanted to see more physicality from her team.

"The Northeastern game was tough. We got some good looks; I think we were just flat and not nearly as physically tough and aggressive," Haggard said. "We didn't play as together as I think we could've and just got outworked."

Defensively, the Bearcats struggled to stop the RiverHawks' offense. Northeastern had three players score in double figures in senior guards Cenia Hayes and Shae Sanchez, along with sophomore guard Zaria Collins.

"We take a lot of pride in our defense. It was our first game with new players, so I think that might've played a role, just considering nerves," Haggard said. "We honed in most on their shooters and took away their 3-point shots, but they scored a lot in the paint. That was something we've talked about post-game that we'd clean up guarding the ball better inside to keep that from happening again."

In a quick turnaround, the Bearcats were in another dog fight in the matchup against Rogers State (0-2). Although Northwest went on a 12-2 run in the first quarter, the Bearcats led 31-30 at the half.

Down 41-37 after Rogers State's 11-6 run to begin the third quarter, Northwest gathered its momentum and never trailed by more than 4 points throughout the last period of the game, winning 70-62.

"I was really proud of the girls. We talked about before the game that we feel like we're a team that's focused, a team that's together and a team that plays hard," Meyer said. "If we capitalize on those mistakes and contin-

## UP NEXT

**NW v Central Missouri**  
5:30 p.m. Dec. 3  
Bearcat Arena

were missing was that toughness element. We kind of checked that toughness box, but we still have a lot of work to do."

Haggard cemented herself in Bearcat history, becoming the 27th Bearcat women's basketball player to reach 1,000 career points, scoring 28 points on 8-of-13 shooting from the field, including 6-of-9 from 3-point range against the Hillcats.

"I was more relieved when I finally hit 1,000. When I knew I was close, I was hoping COVID-19 wouldn't get in the way of me hitting that last major goal before I left," Haggard said. "Thankfully, I got it in our second road game, and to win the game on top of it was what made it exciting. Our team played hard, and I was in a rhythm after hitting my first few shots; that's what made it so fun to accomplish."

Haggard accomplished a feat many players before her could not, something Meyer praised her on after the game.

"She's a kid that is as good of a shooter there is out there. She puts the time in; she's always in the gym. She's a weapon for us," Meyer said. "I was happy for her. She's a worker and puts a lot of time in. It was great to see her get that."

Hartnett put on another strong performance with her first career double-double, tallying 17 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. Redshirt freshman forward Emma Atwood found her shooting touch, joining in as the third Bearcat double-digit scorer with 10 points.

"I think the most impressive thing I took away from the weekend was that we didn't even come close to playing our best team basketball and we still went 1-1. Even in the Rogers State game, when I think we played pretty hard, we still had quite a few breakdowns and turnovers," Haggard said. "If we capitalize on those mistakes and contin-



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

In a Missourian file photo, senior guard Mallory McConkey drives toward the basket in Northwest women's basketball's 77-76 overtime loss to Pittsburg State Feb. 22 at Bearcat Arena. McConkey averaged 12.8 points per game across 21 contests last season.

ue to get better, our best basketball will happen and we'll be an even tougher team to beat."

Northwest will have its home opener Dec. 3 against reigning MIAA Champions Central Missouri (2-0). The Jennies are tied for 21st in the D2SIDA rankings and return their third-leading scorer from last year's squad in senior forward Nija Collier. Central Missouri also returns some depth with seniors forward Morgan VanHyfte and guard Gigi McAtee.

Since 2015, the Bearcats have not found the kryptonite for the Jen-

nies, losing nine straight matchups.

The weekend home stint will end Dec. 5 for the Bearcats when they face Lincoln (0-1). The Blue Tigers have struggled in recent seasons, going 3-25 overall and 0-19 in conference play last year. In the last five seasons, Northwest is 7-3 against Lincoln, including a 2-0 record last season.

"In our last games, we played to our strengths, and that's going to be an important thing moving forward," Meyer said. "We have the building support to be successful in these upcoming games."



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville wrestling senior Connor Weiss grapples an opponent during the Spoofhounds' duel against Falls City (NE) Jan. 16 in the 'Hound Pound. Weiss won't be with the team to start the season Dec. 3 due to the Maryville football team competing in the MSHSAA Class 3 State Championship Dec. 5 against Blair Oaks in Jefferson City, Missouri.

# Wrestling without marquee athletes in first meet of year

TRISTAN LYNCH  
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports



The Maryville boys wrestling team will begin its season down a few wrestlers as the Spoofhounds prepare to compete in the Clarinda Triangular for the first time Dec. 3.

Due to the success of the Maryville's football team making it to the MSHSAA Class 3 State Championship game, wrestling coach Dallas Barrett will be a few wrestlers short in the upcoming match in Clarinda, Iowa.

"I'm going to be short four or five of my guys since they are going to be playing in the football state championship this Saturday," Barrett said. "Kort Watkins, Connor Weiss, Andrew Spire and a few other guys are going to be gone."

Along with those guys missing due to football, Barrett also mentioned that a few other guys will be sitting out due to COVID-19 protocols.

"I have got a couple that have been on quarantine that are going to be short a few practices," Barrett said. "That may be one or two, but we should be able to fill a cou-

ple of the weight classes."

Although multiple wrestlers will be out due to football and COVID-19, Barrett is ready to take on the new challenge of competing in the Clarinda Triangular for the first time in his tenure.

"This is new for us," Barrett said. "I like the challenge, and I'm not sure why we haven't been going to Clarinda before this; it's close enough. It gives us Clarinda, Griswold and Albany, which Albany we are familiar with, so it will give us two new challenges."

The Clarinda Triangular match was added this season, along with a few others due to a shortage of matches for the team last season.

"We were short a couple of matches last year," Barrett said. "So, I know Mathew Beu, the athletic director, was trying to fill us in with a few more matches like a Winnetonka duel coming up next week or the week after, so I know he is trying to get us some more."

With the prospect of a few more matches being added to the schedule this season, the chances of getting to witness the matches in person becomes challenging as COVID-19

## UP NEXT

**MHS @ Clarinda Triangular**  
5:30 p.m. Dec. 3  
Clarinda, Iowa

rules begin to restrict spectators.

"We have the two-spectator rule, so two spectators per participant," Barrett said. "Some people have 15 or 20 family members that like to go, so it kind of limits them."

Along with the two-spectator rule, other guidelines at the match will be masks for those who are not wrestling and regular social distancing rules.

Although only two spectators are allowed per participant, Barrett and the Spoofhounds are working on setting up a livestream or recording clips to post online for those who are unable to attend the match.

"We are looking at the possibility of trying to do a livestream or record the matches and post them where family members and others can get on and watch them," Barrett said. "It's something we just kind of started talking about, so it kind of depends on if the school has Wi-Fi we can get on to livestream it on."

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# SPORTS

Dec. 3, 2020 | @NWMSports

## Welcome back

NW soccer, volleyball finalize plans to return in spring.  
see [nwmissourinews.com](http://nwmissourinews.com)

## Three's a crowd

MHS basketball coach juggles trio of jobs.  
see A8



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior running back Connor Weiss celebrates with senior offensive lineman Dylan White in Maryville football's 30-28 win over Cassville in the Class 3 Semifinal matchup at the 'Hound Pound Nov. 28. Weiss scored one touchdown in the team's last-second win over Cassville that sent the Spoofhounds to the Class 3 State Championship game for the first time since 2017. The Spoofhounds will face off against Blair Oaks in Jefferson City Dec. 5.

## No. 1 Bearcats to make home debut

JON WALKER  
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker



Northwest men's basketball junior guard Trevor Hudgins was amid a 46-game win streak, looking to make it 47, when the Bearcats traveled to Warrensburg, Missouri, to play Central Missouri Dec. 7, 2019.

As the final seconds dwindled off the clock, Hudgins lost his first game as the starting point guard at Northwest, with Central winning 72-60. The guard said it was something bound to happen given the level of competition that the MIAA presents every game.

"If it didn't happen then, we were damn near immortal," Hudgins said. "I knew it was going to happen sometime. Not to be negative, but every team in this conference is good, and it was just that night."

Now, the No. 1 Bearcats (1-0) are preparing for their home debut of the 2020-21 season Dec. 3 in Bearcat Arena, which happens to be another matchup with the Mules (1-2).

Northwest will be 362 days removed from its first and only MIAA loss in the last 51 games when the Mules visit Maryville, but the thought of that lone game hasn't gone anywhere.

"I would say we've still got that loss in the back of our mind," Hudgins said. "That little blemish kinda haunts us a little bit. It just motivates us, too, at the same time."

The Bearcats eventually avenged that loss with an 81-47 win over Central two months later during their final meeting of the 2019-20 season in Maryville.

They're hoping to avenge the postseason run they never got

### UP NEXT

**NW v Central Missouri**  
7:30 p.m. Dec. 3  
Bearcat Arena

last season due to COVID-19 putting a halt to the world of sports, which effectively ended the Bearcats' quest for their third national title in four years.

They were slated to host the Division II Central Region Tournament in Bearcat Arena, which was scheduled to start March 14. The home debut will be the first game action in Bearcat Arena since Feb. 27.

# 273

The number of wins the Bearcats have secured under coach Ben McCollum

"We're excited about the opportunity to play outside competition," Northwest men's coach Ben McCollum said. "We're excited about the chance to play a conference game and, obviously, play at home."

The same pandemic that ended the Bearcats' season in March is still impacting their competition in December.

McCollum has noticed teams across all divisions of the NCAA struggling at the start of the season, something that he's referred



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN  
Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum has led the program to a record of 132-6 over the last five seasons. McCollum is the fourth-winningest active coach in the NCAA with a minimum of 10 seasons, with a winning percentage of .782.

to as "COVID fog."

"It seems like a lot of teams in the country are experiencing it," McCollum said. "Kids get into the game and they're like, 'Oh, we're actually going to play. This is wild.' All they hear

is 'COVID-this and COVID-that,' and it makes it difficult to stay present. The mentally tough teams are the ones that are going to be able to win championships at the end."

He's hoping the Bearcats aren't

affected by the fog. Instead, he's hoping they add to their 24-game win streak, which is the third-longest across all levels of the NCAA.

SEE MEN | A7

## 'Hounds return to title game

### Backup QB leads MHS to chance at hardware

ANDREW WEGLEY  
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

The night before he threw the most important touchdown pass of his short high school career, Connor Drake, along with his teammates, heard from every quarterback who had won a state championship in the history of Maryville's football program.

Five former players, from graduating classes ranging from 1982 to 2017, returned to Maryville on the eve of the Spoofhounds' Class 3 semifinal matchup with Cassville to share pearls of wisdom, telling stories at a team dinner about their own experiences in semifinal games. With a minute and seven seconds left in Maryville's matchup with Cassville Nov. 28 at the 'Hound Pound, it didn't seem like Drake, who took over for an injured Ben Walker in Week 1, would have a chance to join the short list of championship-winning quarterbacks.

After leading the Wildcats for the entirety of the first three quarters in the semifinal matchup, Maryville's defense broke down with just over a minute left on the clock in the fourth quarter, lapsing as a Cassville reverse gave way to a 28-24 lead for the Wildcats. The touchdown marked the second score for Cassville in a three-minute span. It seemed to

spell the end of the season for the Spoofhounds, something senior running back Trey Houchin admitted he believed to be true as the offense took the field following the score.

"I'm not gonna lie to you, as soon as I went out there, I was like, 'Welp, I think we're gonna lose,'" Trey Houchin said.

Instead, facing a stout Cassville defense worn down over four quarters by an oppressive Maryville rushing attack, Drake engineered a comeback drive without the luxury of his running backs. After spending much of the game and the season only moonlighting as a passer in between shifts as a handoff artist, Drake led Maryville (11-3) through a gusting south wind and 80 yards into the end zone, giving the team a 30-28 win over the Wildcats (10-3) and securing the Spoofhounds' first state championship berth since 2017.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Drake said, moments after finding sophomore wideout Caden Stoecklein wide open for the game-winning score. "Going into that last drive, you dream of that as a kid, sending your team to state. With less than a minute left, it's unbelievable."

SEE STATE | A7